

Enrolled

Senate Bill 288

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CHAPTER.....

AN ACT

Relating to water supply systems; creating new provisions; amending ORS 264.312; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. The goal of this Act is to begin development of a program for upgrading substandard water supply systems to meet minimum federal drinking water quality standards by requiring compilation of available information on existing water supply systems, an assessment of problems of these systems, and the formulation of appropriate solutions to those problems. The reports required under sections 3 and 4 of this Act are intended to help assess the potential role of local governments in regulating water quality and supply and what state legislation and financial resources may be necessary to aid local governments in carrying out that role.

SECTION 2. As used in this Act, unless the context requires otherwise, "water supply system" means a water supply source or distribution system which serves more than three single residences or other users for the purpose of supplying water for household uses.

SECTION 3. The Intergovernmental Relations Division of the Executive Department, after consulting with the Water Policy Review Board, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Health Division, the Land Conservation and Development Commission and the counties of this state shall:

(1) No later than September 1, 1979, publish guidelines to assist counties in preparing reports under section 4 of this Act.

(2) Assist counties, with available technical and financial resources, in the preparation of the reports required under section 4 of this Act.

(3) Organize an advisory committee composed of interested and affected federal, state, local and private agencies and organizations to review the county reports and make recommendations for solutions to identified problems.

(4) No later than July 1, 1980, after receipt of the county reports under section 4 of this Act and consideration of the advisory committee's recommendations, submit a report on those reports, with recommendations for legislative action, to the Joint Interim Committee on Trade and Economic Development.

SECTION 4. Each county in this state, within the resources available to it, and in conjunction with the Intergovernmental Relations Division of the Executive Department, other local

governments and water suppliers, shall gather readily available information on all water supply systems in that county, identify existing problems of those systems and possible solutions to those problems. The information and identification shall be reviewed by the county governing body and reported, no later than April 1, 1980, to the Intergovernmental Relations Division. The report should:

(1) Describe all water systems operating in the county supplying drinking water including the number of customers each system serves and the quality of water each provides.

(2) Discuss, in general terms, how existing water systems can be improved to meet minimum federal drinking water quality standards and what constraints exist on achieving those standards.

(3) Describe any monitoring made within the county of drinking water, including manner and frequency of testing, and what monitoring might be necessary to insure compliance of water supply systems with minimum federal drinking water quality standards.

(4) Identify what areas of the county are served by water supply systems, and what areas of the county are not part of any service area but could be served by an existing, expanded or consolidated water supply system. The report should also estimate potential supply and expansion capabilities of water supply systems to provide safe drinking water for future development in areas identified for future growth in the county.

(5) Discuss additional regulatory authority and financial resources that may be necessary for state and local governments to insure adequate water quality and availability in that county.

Section 5. ORS 264.312 is amended to read:

264.312. (1) Whenever any increase is proposed in the existing rates charged water consumers by a district pursuant to ORS 264.310, the board of commissioners shall first provide for a public hearing on such proposal before any increased rates are ordered into effect.

(2) The public hearing required under subsection (1) of this section shall be held at a place designated by the board after notice thereof has been given by inclusion of a notice of the public hearing in either the water bills or a special mailing sent to consumers by the district during the period of 30 days prior to the date of the hearing.

SECTION 6. This Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect on its passage.